

# Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



*Blackburnian Warbler*

**Nature Center Staff:**

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner



**May Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT**

**Daily**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you. To be added to our email list, send an email to [dunesnc@dnr.in.gov](mailto:dunesnc@dnr.in.gov)

## **Saturday May 1**

*Welcome Back Weekend!*

*Special Interpretive Activities*

*All Weekend!*

**10am Dune Wetland Discovery.** Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center.

**2pm Tour De Dunes.** Experience the park by bike this afternoon. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

**8pm Whooo Goes There...!** You do on this creature of the night program! Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the owls and other night time birds that call this place home. We'll also venture outside (possible car pool) so we can try to "hoot" some up! Kids under 12, please bring a parent. BB

## **Sunday May 2**

**9am Early May Migration!** Meet at the Campground Gate for a sneak peak at the early migrating birds of Indiana Dunes. By this date, many species will be moving north, and those staying will have just begun nest building. We'll also visit the local Red-shouldered Hawk nest. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours! BB

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids.

**2pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.** Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Join us!

## **Saturday May 8**

### *Birding Mini-Bioblitz Weekend and International Migratory Bird Day!*

**9am Spring Birding in the Dunes.** Join the Naturalist for a morning of birding on the International Migratory Bird Day! We will meet by the Wilson Shelter for a 1 ½ hour jaunt on Trail 2 towards the campground, as we search out recently arriving warblers, vireos, and more. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

**10am Winged Migration.** Visit the warm Nature Center for a look at this amazing documentary highlighting the mass migration of birds every year. Fly alongside them this morning. Total time about 90 minutes.

**2pm Chimney Swift: Aerial Acrobats.** Join Shirley Needham, Wildlife Rehabilitator, for a slide presentation and discussion about our amazing “flying cigars,” chimney swifts, an insect-eating machine, graceful flyer, and migrant from the upper Amazon River basin in Peru. A serious decline in their populations has caused a volunteer movement to build wooden towers for the swifts to raise their young. Learn what you can do to help protect this little known bird at the Nature Center.

**8pm Our Feathered Friends of the Night!** Grab a flashlight and join us in the Nature Center for a fun discussion of the various night time birds that are “hooting” and hollering outside right now. Afterwards we’ll step outside for some close up looks at some of the owls, whippoorwills, and more that are awakening for their nightly activity. Children under 12, please bring a parent. Join us! BB



## **Sunday May 9**

**9:30am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

**10am Dune Geology.** Visit the Nature Center this morning for a fun look at how the dunes were formed. We’ll explore the dune creation process, right down to the bedrock. Meet in the Auditorium. Join us!

**2pm Birds and Blooms on Mt Tom** Grab Mom and join us for an hour jaunt to the highest dune in the park, Mt. Tom. We’ll seek out the birds and flowers that make this day so special. Meet at the Nature Center and bring a good pair of hiking boots. BB

## **Saturday May 15**

**10am Dunes Blooming!** Check out the new spring wildflowers blooming right now with the park interpreter this morning. Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll in search of the new ephemeral blooms. DG

**2pm Critter Feeding Time!** Scoot on over to the Nature Center Auditorium for some critter feeding fun! Learn what some of the Nature Center animals eat and maybe even get to feed some yourself! Great family fun! DG

## **Sunday May 16**

**9am Coffee and Birds** Meet at the Campstore (by the campground gate) for a fresh air jaunt in search of the migrating birds in the area. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Fresh coffee for sale in the Campstore before the hike. BB

**2pm Frogs in Love!** Meet the Naturalist for a special peek at our frogs in love! Join us at the Nature Center as we explore the different amphibians that call Indiana Dunes home. Get a special chance to see and feel them up close. Bring the kids! BB

## **Saturday May 22**

**10am Mt Tom Bound!** Strap on your hiking boots and join us for a trek to the highest dune in Indiana. We’ll enjoy magnificent views over Lake Michigan before heading back down through the tranquil dune forests. Meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113). Parking available at the Campground Gate for those coming from town. DG

**2pm Birding Somewhere South of Miami: A look at the conservation in Cuba!** Join Park Interpreter Brad Bumgardner for a special look at our ties with the Caribbean’s largest island. Brad recently spent 2 weeks exploring the natural areas and migrating bird life in this country steeped with tradition and controversy. This special program takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium. Join us! BB

## **Sunday May 23**

**10am Swamp Safari!** Join David for a morning exploration of the dune swamps. Meet at the Nature Center as we suit up with dip nets and bowls and hike to the wetland to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Great family fun! DG

**2pm Dune Jeopardy!** Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG

## **Tuesday May 25**

### ***7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club.***

Bring your favorite photo to share or just enjoy photos from other nature photo enthusiasts in this monthly photo club. Meet at the Nature Center. Join us!

## **Friday May 28**

***7:30pm Campground Crafts!*** Send the kids over after checking in for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time!

## **Saturday May 29**

***10am A Woodland Wander.*** Explore the dune forests this morning as we kick off Memorial Day Weekend! We'll be on the look out for flowers, birds, and other late spring sights and sounds. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 minute stroll.

***11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program.*** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

***3pm Squirrels Gone Wild!...*** and you can too in this fun, fascinating program at the Nature Center. We'll explore the squirrels of Indiana Dunes, play a candy game, and then go outside and see if we can see one up close. Great family fun! BB

***7:30pm Sunset Climb!*** Meet the park interpreter for a view of Indiana's best sunset! We'll start at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) and make our way up to Mt. Tom's summit. From there we'll marvel in the sunset before winding our way back down. Parking available at the Campground Gate for those coming in from town. BB

## **Sunday May 30**

***10am Forest Philosophies.*** There are some who can live without wild things; this hike is for those that cannot. Break the kids away from their techno toys and let's explore the dune forest on this fun and interactive family hike. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

***11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program.*** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

***2pm Tour De Dunes.*** Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the park interpreter at the Campground Gate for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

***8pm Campground Reptile Review!*** Join the park interpreter at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for a fun look at the reptiles of the Indiana Dunes! Great program, especially if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! DG

## **Monday May 31**

### ***Memorial Day!***



***10am Feed the Birds.*** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

***3pm Critter Feeding Time!*** Scoot on over to the Nature Center Auditorium for some critter feeding fun! Learn what some of the Nature Center animals eat and maybe even get to feed some yourself! Great family fun! DG